

to express their opinions on happenings in their community, problems affecting their city, and issues of concern throughout the country.

It is the stories that they tell which should remind us all of the “facts on the ground”—the stories to inform and inspire our policy and legislative work. It can change the world by making seen the invisible, teaching the unknown, and challenging the conventional wisdom.

We all should commend The Wave; its publisher, Susan B. Locke; its general manager, Sanford M. Bernstein; its managing editor, Howard Schwach; its art director, Felicia Scarola-Edwards; its sports editor, Elio Velez; its staff reporter, Nicholas Briano; its contributing editor, Miriam Rosenberg; art assistants James Corbin, Carolina Cohen, Mike Delia, Judy Gardonyi, Colleen Mulvey, Janette Rappo, and Don Rodriguez; and columnists Erin Baumann, Nancy Brady, Jon Paul Culotta, Dorothy Dunne, Dr. Nancy Gahles, Marilyn Gelfand, James Glasser, Liz Guarino, Susan Hartenstein, Emil R. Lucev, Linda Marshak, Stuart Mirsky, Dr. Tim Rohrs, Mornam Scott, Robert Snyder, Robin Shapiro, and Stephen Yaegar for their incredible work and congratulate them all for this honor.

A TRIBUTE TO ELAINE ARMSTRONG VALL-SPINOSA COCHRAN DUNKLE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Elaine Armstrong Vall-Spinosa Cochran Dunkle for her inspiring leadership and devoted service to both her community and country. For the past 54 years she has applied her considerable skill to promoting civil discourse and civic engagement across both state and party lines. She has served, and continues to serve, as a bastion of inspiration for those who adhere to the principle that democracy is not an idle state, but a work in progress that expects our involvement should it seek to endure.

On May 14, 1915, Elaine was born into a society that did not permit women to vote. Five years later, Congress ratified the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote under the U.S. Constitution. Elaine can recall her father giving her mother instructions on how the voting process worked. It was a memory she carried with her when, at age 21, Elaine cast her first ballot for Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1936 Presidential election.

After college, Elaine became a history teacher, and it was at the helm of a classroom that she first experienced a deep connection with politics. She felt a tremendous sense of responsibility to the children she taught, and to honor that, took the time to educate herself and them on the great issues of their day, such as Roosevelt's “New Deal” and the Marshall Plan. She left teaching, however, to raise her own family and it was shortly thereafter that Elaine was invited to a life-changing meeting of Virginia's League of Women Voters.

Rising the ranks within Virginia's delegation, Elaine soon found herself guiding the League in an attempt to prevent Congress from dis-

mantling price controls in the midst of the Great Depression. Believing that price controls were crucial to keeping household staples affordable for the average Depression-stricken family, she led a motorcade with League representatives from all 48 states to the Capitol. Together, they succeeded in convincing Congress to delay the dismantling of those controls.

Years later, Elaine was still active within the League of Women Voters. Now residing in Maryland, she played a vital role in a countless number of the League's Calvert County endeavors. As President of the Calvert County unit, she oversaw a number of initiatives aimed to increase public awareness of political issues. These included the hugely popular “Know Who's in Charge” pamphlet and the Calvert County Voter's Guide. One of her reigning achievements was her League's invaluable role in building the Chesapeake Bay Coalition—a union of five states joined in the fight to preserve and protect America's largest estuary. With the use of independently-funded studies, Elaine and her League members poured endless hours into persuading policymakers that it was the right action to take for our country. They succeeded.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once wrote that “we in America do not have government by the majority—we have government by the majority of those who participate.” Elaine Cochran Dunkle has spent her life participating and as a consequence has left a lasting mark on our country. I extend my sincerest thanks for her tireless commitment to our nation and for all the many accomplishments that commitment has engendered.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of South Carolina's Women's Soccer team for winning their first Southeastern Conference tournament title. The Gamecocks had only three regular season losses and beat Georgia, Florida and LSU to clench their first SEC title.

On Sunday, the Gamecocks not only recorded their second shutout in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament, but USC Coach Shelly Smith also claimed her 100th win at USC. Now the team will advance to the round of 16 for the first time in program history.

With leaders like defender Blakely Mattern, forwards Kayla Grimsley and Brooke Jacobs, co-captain Kim Miller, and goalkeeper Mollie Patton, I'm confident the USC women's soccer team will make us all proud.

Congratulations to the student athletes and their families—we wish them luck as they make their run for a national title.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING GEORGE ELLMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George Ellman of Sonoma, California, who died on September 27, 2009, after a lifetime of community activism, leadership, and dedication to protecting the environment which included promoting public transit in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Born in Chicago in 1923, Mr. Ellman received a degree in biochemistry at the University of Illinois and completed a master's degree at the University of Washington where he met his future wife, Phyllis. The Ellmans moved to Pasadena where George earned a Ph.D. at Cal Tech. In 1957, as a young scientist at Dow Chemical Co. in Michigan, he developed the Ellman Reagent, which became the standard clinical lab procedure for measuring enzymes and proteins. Moving to Tiburon in 1958, George was the chief research biochemist at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute and professor in the Department of Biochemistry at UC Medical Center.

With a passion for public service, George served on the Tiburon Parks and Recreation Committee and was elected to the Tiburon City Council, serving as Mayor, and representing the city of Tiburon on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the influential Bay Area-wide Metropolitan Transportation Commission, where he developed a lifelong interest in transportation issues. While living in Tiburon, George and Phyllis were active in the effort to keep Richardson Bay from being filled and developed. They helped preserve and protect Blackie's Pasture and Lyford House, which kept them from becoming part of a proposed 4-lane expansion of Tiburon Boulevard.

After moving to Sonoma County in 1980, George devoted himself to helping the environment. He served for 28 years on the board of “People for Open Space” which became Greenbelt Alliance, and used this experience to help forge the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District in 1990. George also served as a board member of the National Audubon Society and went on to help establish the Sonoma Ecology Center.

Mild mannered and good humored, George was a respected activist with an unrelenting persistence to do the right thing. With a passion for public transit, George worked tirelessly to bring back passenger rail service linking Sonoma and Marin Counties. The biggest booster for the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit, SMART, George lived to see voters pass the quarter-cent SMART sales tax measure last November, which will help fund the 70-mile rail service through the two counties. Scheduled to roll down the tracks in 2014, the SMART board has agreed to honor his request that his ashes ride on the first SMART train out of the station.

Dr. Ellman was also a classically-trained pianist and co-founded the Sonoma Classical Music Society. Dedicated to the environment, environmental education and bringing music to the community, to sustain this, the Ellmans established the Ellman Fund at the Community Foundation of Sonoma County.